

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9076

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 4777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS PGOV PINT ECON FT FR SO ET UR

SUBJECT: A DIVIDED TFAI MOVES TOWARD INDEPENDENCE: HIGHLIGHTS OF
RECENT VISIT

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 2427 (NOTAL) R 270750Z FEB 76

B. SANA 1101 (NOTAL) R 031300Z APR 76

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SUMMARY: IN APRIL 12 TO 17 VISIT TO DJIBOUTI, FRENCH TERRITORY
OF AFARS AND ISSAS (TFAI), ADDIS EMBOFF ROGERS, IN PART ACCOMPANIED
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BY MOGADISCIO EMBOFF WALKER, MET WITH FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER

D'ORNANO, OTHER FRENCH AND CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI CONSULS GENERAL, LOCAL POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN. OVERALL IMPRESSION WAS THAT TERRITORY WAS MOVING AHEAD WILLY-NILLY TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE, PROBABLY EARLY NEXT YEAR, WITH THE FRENCH LACKING THE MORALE, WILL AND POWER TO SHAPE A POLITICAL OUTCOME FAVORABLE TO THE WEST (I.E., ONE EXCLUDING AN ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY SOMALIA OR BY A SOMALI-CONTROLLED PUPPET REGIME) AT OR SOON AFTER INDEPENDENCE. LACK FRENCH RESOLVE IS DUE IN LARGE MEASURE TO GOF DOMESTIC POLITICAL WEAKNESSES, BUT ALSO TO FRENCH SENSE THAT THEY STAND ALONE IN TFAI: ETHIOPIA IS POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY WEAK AND DIVIDED AND, THEREFORE, UNABLE TO PROTECT EFFECTIVELY ITS OWN VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS IN DJIBOUTI. FRENCH OFFICIALS REALIZE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT ALI AREF'S POLITICAL WEAKNESSES AND LIABILITIES, BUT HAVE NO OTHER HORSE UPON WHOM THEY ARE WILLING TO RELY. THREE MAIN TFAI POLITICAL GROUPINGS (AREF'S NATIONAL UNION FOR INDEPENDENCE--UNI, AFRICAN PEOPLES' LEAGUE FOR INDEPENDENCE--LPAI, AND THE "PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION") ARE SHARPLY ANTAGONISTIC TO EACH OTHER, ESPECIALLY ON PERSONAL GROUNDS, AND DIVIDED INTERNALLY AS WELL. FRENCH EFFORTS TO RECONCILE THESE DIFFERENCES AND ANTAGONISMS HAVE THUS FAR FAILED AND, IN OPINION OF D'ORNANO AND POLITICIANS CONCERNED, WILL CONTINUE TO FAIL. NO LOCAL OBSERVERS, INCLUDING OFFICIAL FRENCH ONES, WERE WILLING TO PREDICT POST-INDEPENDENCE MAKE-UP OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT, BUT MANY, INCLUDING ACTIVE AND WELL-INFORMED ETHIOPIAN CONSUL GENERAL FITIGU AND FRENCH OFFICIALS, FEAR DOMINATION OF TFAI BY A LEFTIST-ORIENTED, PRO-SOMALI LPAI. SINCE LPAI'S STRENGTH APPEARS TO BE GROWING, THESE FEARS ARE FED BY "HARD INFORMATION" IN HANDS OF FRENCH AND ALI AREF THAT FREQUENT VISITS TO TERRITORY BY FRENCH COMMUNIST JOURNALISTS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE MADE TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND INSTRUCTIONS TO LPAI LEADERS. LENGTHY STOP-OVERS IN DJIBOUTI "FOR NO APPARENT REASON" BY SOVIET AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN OFFICIALS ALSO HEIGHTEN THESE FEARS. IN THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, LOCAL FRENCH BELIEVE THEY CAN MAINTAIN SOME SORT OF MILITARY PRESENCE IN AN INDEPENDENT TFAI AT MOST FOR FIVE YEARS. ECONOMICALLY, DJIBOUTI IS STAGNATING, THE EXODUS BY FRENCH AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IS ACCELERATING, BUILDING AND

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SOME IMPORTANT RETAIL TRADES ARE IN DOLDRUMS OR DECLINING SHARPLY, AND THE ATMOSPHERE AMONG EXPATRIATES AND COMMERCIALY INVOLVED SOMALIS IS MARKED BY GLOOM AND DOOM. END SUMMARY.

1. PARTIES ARE DIVIDED. PERSONAL DIFFERENCES AND JEALOUSIES MARK DIVISIONS BETWEEN LPAI, UNI, AND AFAR-LED PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION. ALI AREF--MORE COMPETENT THAN MOST--IS HEARTILY DISLIKED BY ALL OF HIS OPPONENTS AND THIS OPPOSITION

PROVIDES MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THEIR GLUE FOR COMMON ACTION. AREF CONSTITUTED THE UNI LAST FALL IN ORDER TO SHOW HE REPRESENTED A POLITICAL PARTY IN CASE HE SHOULD BE DEFEATED IN A PARLIAMENTARY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. FRENCH URGED THIS ACTION IN ORDER TO BROADEN THEIR ROOM FOR MANEUVER AND PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR OTHER PRO-FRENCH LOCAL POLITICIANS SHOULD AREF FALL. ACCORDING TO FRENCH COUNSELLOR TO AREF, GODFROY, UNI IS RUN ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY BY AREF AND HIS MAIN POLITICAL LIEUTENANT, MOHAMMED JAMMA ELABE (CF. REF A, PARA 5). GIVEN RECENT RAPIDLY ACCELERATING POLITICAL EVENTS (URBAN TERRORISM, LOYADA INCIDENT, ETC), AREF HAS BEEN ABLE TO SPEND LITTLE TIME BUILDING THE STRUCTURE OF AN SUPPORT FOR UNI. UNI REMAINS, THEREFORE, MOSTLY A PAPER PARTY, A THINLY-DISGUISED PERSONAL VEHICLE FOR AREF AND, IN THE MINDS OF MANY, INCLUDING THE "MAN IN THE STREET," AN INSTRUMENT FOR FRENCH CONTROL OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. FRENCH RECOGNIZE AREF'S POLITICAL WEAKNESS, BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE EITHER TO FIND A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE OR TO BRING OPPOSING PARTIES AND FACTIONS TOGETHER. LPAI'S HASSAN GOULED IS WILLING TO MEET AREF ONLY IN LATTER'S ROLE AS UNI LEADER, NOT AS "HEAD OF GOVERNMENT". AREF NATURALLY PREFERS TO BE FIRST AMONG EQUALS. FRENCH OFFICIALS COMPLAIN THAT THEY HAVE ACCEDED TO ALL OF GOULED'S DEMANDS RE A ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE TO MELD OPPOSITION VIEWS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, A LA SEYCHELLES. WHEN FRENCH AGREED TO SUCH ROUND-TABLE TALKS, GOULED UPPED ANTE BY REQUESTING VENUE BE CHANGED FROM DJIBOUTI TO PARIS. THAT AGREED UPON, GOULED SAID HE WOULD NOT MEET DIRECTLY WITH AREF. THIS HAS NOW BEEN ACCEPTED, BUT GOULED IS STILL BALKING, EVEN THOUGH ROUND-TABLE MEETING OF FRENCH AND VARIOUS TFAI POLITICAL FACTIONS IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN PARIS ON MAY 11.

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INDEED, FRENCH DIRECTEUR DE CABINET HUGOT FEARS TROUBLES AT PARIS MEETING. LPAI, HE STATED, IF NOT COMPLETELY MARXIST IN IDEOLOGY, IS MARXIST IN METHOD. ACCORDING TO HUGOT, MEETING WILL PROVIDE LPAI WITH SETTING FOR POLITICAL MANEUVERS WHICH COULD END BY LPAI STORMING OUT OF SESSIONS, ANOUNCING "RIGGED" CONFERENCE AND GRABBING WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, BOTH GOULED AND ALI AREF TOLD EMBOFFS THAT NOTHING WILL BE RESOLVED BY PARIS DISCUSSIONS. AS FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED, THEY ARE ONLY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS. D'ORNANO MADE A SIMILAR COMMENT ABOUT THE SCHEDULED APRIL 28TH VISIT BY THE OAU FACT-FINDING COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION IS POWERLESS, AND CAN DO NOTHING TO RECONCILE FACTIONS. THE VISIT, D'ORNANO, SAID, ONLY SERVES TO RAISE TENSIONS AND PROVIDE IMPETUS TO DEMONSTRATIONS AND POSSIBLE VIOLENCE.

3. OBSERVERS GENERALLY AGREE THAT LPAI PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED, A SOMALI, IS NOT MASTER IN HIS OWN PARTY HOUSE. FUNDING FOR PARTY COMES OVERWHELMINGLY FROM SOMALIA AND MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT SOMALI PRESIDENT SAID CALLS PARTY POLICY SHOTS. INDEED, FRENCH, AREF, AND ETHIOPIANS BELIEVE RECENT UNSCHEDULED STOPOVER IN SANA BY SIAD ON RETURN FROM MOSCOW (CF. REF B) WAS MADE IN ORDER FOR SIAD TO BRIEF GOULED AND LPAI SEC GEN AHMED DINI JPAN AFAR) ON SIAD'S SOVIET TRIP AND TO PROVIDE IN- INSTRUCTIONS. COMMENT: GOULED READILY ADMITS MEETING WITH SIAD IN SANA. END COMMENT. OBSERVERS DOUBT THAT, EVEN IF SPAI SHOULD ACHIEVE POWER, GOULED WOULD LONG REMAIN AS TITULAR PARTY LEADER. THESE SOURCES CITE EXTENSIVE INFILTRATION OF LPAI BY AGENTS OF GSDR-CONTROLLED SOMALI COAST LIBERATION FRONT--FLCS. THESE FLCS MARXIST IDEOLOGUES, FRENCH, ETHIOPIANS, AND AREF SAY, WILL DISPLACE AGING GOULED, AND DANCE TO GSDR AND HENCE SOVIET TUNE IF THEY SHOULD GAIN POWER. AS FOR DINI, HE HAS LITTLE OR NO AFAR SUPPORT AND IS ACTING PURELY OUT OF HIS PERSONAL HATRED FOR AREF AND HIS DESIRE TO CAUSE AREF'S POLITICAL DOWNFALL. REPORTEDLY, HE IS FULLY AWARE THAT HE WILL HAVE NO PLACE IN AN LPAI-LED INDEPENDENT TFAI GOVERNMENT, BUT WOULD BE SATISFIED TO SEE THE POLITICAL DEMISE OF HIS LONG-TIME FOE, AREF. NON-UNI AND NON-LPAI INTERLOCUTORS, FROM TAXI DRIVERS TO BUSINESSMEN AND FRENCH, GENERALLY AGREE THAT LPAI, WHILE MORE POPULAR

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THAN UNI AND RECENT BENEFICIARY OF AFAR ANTI-AREF SENTIMENT, DOES NOT HAVE DEVOTED, WIDESPREAD SUPPORT. IT IS NOTEWORTHY, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS AND OTHER OBSERVERS GREATLY RESPECT GOULED AND DINI FOR THEIR INTELLIGENCE.

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4. FRENCH SOURCE AND AREF STATE LP AI NOT ONLY RECEIVES MASSIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM SOMALIA (AREF CLAIMS SOMALIA PROVIDED CASH TO LP AI FOR PURCHASE OF 20 TOYOTA LAND CRUISERS), BUT ALSO RECEIVES ADVICE AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM FRENCH COMMUNIST JOURNALISTS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS. FOR EXAMPLE, HUGOT CITED RECENT TRIP TO TFAI BY HUMANITE CORRESPONDENT LAMBOTTE AND EXTREME LEFTIST LAWYER PINET. REPORTEDLY, DINI TRAVELLED IN COMPANY OF ONE OF THESE DURING HIS MID-APRIL TRIP TO PARIS. FRENCH ALSO STATE SOVIET AND OTHER EAST BLOC OFFICIALS REMAIN IN DJIBOUTI UP TO TWO WEEKS "BETWEEN PLANES" AND "JUST HAPPEN TO PASS
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TIME CONVERSING WITH LP AI."

5. OPPOSITION GROUP OF PRIMARILY AFAR PARLIAMENTARIANS IS LED BY BARKAT GOURAT (ALSO A SENATOR IN FRANCE), ISMAEL ALI YOUSSEF (AFAR SULTAN ALI MIRAH'S LIEUTENANT IN TFAI) AND ABDELLA KHAMIL MOHAMMED (SECGEN OF GOVERNMENT COUNCIL)-- ALL AFARS. GROUP IS UNITED BY PERSONAL OPPOSITION TO AREF. ALTHOUGH ISMAEL AND ABDELLA KHAMIL APPEAR TO HAVE MOVED INTO OPPOSITION DURING LATTER HALF OF 1975 BECAUSE OF LOYALTY TO SULTAN ALI MIRAH (AREF AND FRENCH HAVE TACITLY SUPPORTED EHTIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AGAINST ALI MIRAH), OPPOSITION NOW GOES BEYOND ALLEGIANCE TO SULTAN. PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION, WHICH

NOW CONSISTS OF 16 MEMBERS (OUT OF TOTAL OF 40 DEPUTIES), IS LOOSELY ORGANIZED AND LACKS DIRECTION AND SPECIFIC GOALS. ISMAEL TOLD EMBOFFS THAT GROUP SOUGHT POSTPONEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE (BECAUSE FRENCH NOW BELIEVE SOMALIS ARE IN MAJORITY AND AFARS WOULD LOSE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT) IN ORDER TO GIVE TIME FOR FRENCH TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN DESPERATELY POOR TERRITORY. COMMENT: OPPOSITION GROUP, IF IT GROWS, COULD PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE AS "SPOILERS" OF ANY AREF POLICY. HOWEVER, IT PRESENTLY SHOWS ONLY A SMALL CHANCE OF SUCH GROWTH AND PRESENTS NO DEVELOPED POLITICAL PROGRAM. END COMMENT.

6. FURTHER COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BASED TO A VERY LARGE EXTENT ON PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS, MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE TERRITORIAL POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS ARE FLUID AND CAN BE INFLUENCED, ESPECIALLY BY BRIBES. ETHIOPIAN, FRENCH, AND BUSINESS CONTACTS UNANIMOUSLY AGREE THAT MONEY SPEAKS VERY LOUDLY AMONG TERRITORIAL POLITICIANS. FITIGU REPORTS HE BOUGHT THE SERVICES OF BARKAT GOURAT FOR AN ETH \$4,000 HORSE "WHICH BELONGED TO THE EMPEROR ANYWAY". LIKewise, ACCORDING TO FITIGU, SOMALIA HAS PROVIDED LPAI WITH 7 MILLION DJIBOUTI FRANCS (\$40,000) FOR GENERAL BRIBERY PURPOSES AND EACH MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION WITH 3 MILLION DJIBOUTI FRANCS (\$17,000) "FOR SERVICES". THE IMPLICATION IS THAT ALLEGIANCES MAY CHANGE AS MORE MONEY CHANGES HANDS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. END FURTHER COMMENT.

7. NEW FRENCH TEAM IS OLD IN SPIRIT. A COMPLETELY NEW CADRE NOW STAFFS THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. CONFIDENTIAL

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CAMILLE D'ORNANO ABRUPTLY REPLACED CHRISTIAN DABLANC AS HIGH COMMISSIONER WHEN THE LATTER "LOST A DAY" IN REACTING TO THE LOYADA KIDNAPPING LAST FEBRUARY. DABLANC AND HIS STAFF WERE GENERALLY REGARDED AS VERY COMPETENT AND INTELLIGENT TECHNOCRATS. DURING THE LOYADA CRISES, HOWEVER, THEY FAILED TO ACT RAPIDLY AND DECISIVELY. THE GOF THEN REPLACED DABLANC, "A MAN OF THE PREFECTURE SET", WITH D'ORNANO, WHO HAS HAD EXTENSIVE OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE. FRENCH CIVIL SERVANTS, ETHIOPIANS, AND LOCAL BUSINESSMEN GENERALLY AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHANGE HAS NOT NECESSARILY BEEN FOR THE BETTER. D'ORNANO IS TWO YEARS FROM RETIREMENT. HIS DIRECTEUR DE CABINET, HUGOT, HAS A LONG RECORD OF OVERSEAS SERVICE AND IS PROBABLY ON HIS LAST ASSIGNMENT. COMMANDANT BELLEC, THE HIGH COMMISSION'S MILITARY ADVISOR, ALTHOUGH YOUNG AND ENERGETIC, HAS BEEN IN DJIBOUTI ONLY SIX MONTHS. EMBOFF FOUND THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE HIGH COMMISSION TO BE ONE OF RESIGNATION AND "STAYING THE COURSE", NOT OF CREATIVE INNOVATION AND ACTIVITY. ETHIOPIAN CONSUL GENERAL FITIGU, WHO IN FEBRUARY PRAISED D'ORNANO FOR HIS POLITICAL AWARENESS,

NOW CONDEMNS HIM FOR HAVING "GIVEN UP."

8. D'ORNANO, HOWEVER, IS PLAYING VERY WEAK HAND. HE AND HIS ADVISORS RECOGNIZE AREF'S POLITICAL WEAKNESS AND CONSTRICTION OF HIS ETHNIC BASE. THEY ARE ALSO PAINFULLY AWARE THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL POSITION IS TOO WEAK TO WITHSTAND THE PRESENT COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST ATTACK ON FRENCH PRESENCE IN TFAI. THIRDLY, AND VERY CRUCIALLY, THE FRENCH FEAR THEY CANNOT DEPEND ON ETHIOPIA TO DEFEND ITS OWN VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS IN THE TERRITORY AGAINST SOMALI EXPANSION. THE FRENCH ARE WELL INFORMED ON THE THINLY-STRETCHED ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES, AND ON LOCAL ANTI-EPMG

INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN ERITREA, SOUTHERN AND EASTERN ETHIOPIA. THEY BEMOAN THE LACK OF EPMG PLANNING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND EFFICIENCY WHICH THEY SEE MANIFESTED CONSTANTLY BY EPMG IN ITS CONTRADICTORY DIRECTIVES TO THE FRANCO-ETHIOPIAN RAILROAD. ACCORDING TO FRENCH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, SOMALI ARMY REGULARS OPERATE AT WILL WITHIN ETHIOPIA (EVEN APPROACHING HARAR CITY) WITHOUT EFFECTIVE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY REACTION. GIVEN THE LACK OF EPMG UNITY, RESOLVE AND MILITARY STRENGTH, FRENCH AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO HAVE WRITTEN
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OFF THE ETHIOPIANS AS A SOURCE OF MUCH POTENTIAL SUPPORT IN THE EVENT OF A FRENCH/SOMALI CONFRONTATION (OR A SOMALI INVASION OF THE TERRITORY AFTER INDEPENDENCE.)

9. FRENCH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING D'ORNANO, ARE PRESENTLY UNSURE OF HOW EXTENSIVE THE FRENCH PRESENCE, IF ANY, WILL BE AFTER INDEPENDENCE. IF THE LPAI ASSUMES POWER, THEY ENVISION A RATHER RAPID WITHDRAWAL. IF AREF OR SIMILAR LEADERS ARE IN CHARGE AT INDEPENDENCE, THEY FORESEE A SLOW WITHDRAWAL WHILE PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IN SUCH AN EVENT, LOCAL FRENCH BELIEVE THEY COULD MAINTAIN A MILITARY PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI FOR AS LONG AS FIVE YEARS. MOST OBSERVERS, HOWEVER, VIEW THE FIVE-YEAR FIGURE AS A VERY OPTIMISTIC ONE. AREF'S FRENCH ADVISOR GODFREY, HOWEVER, IS NOT OPTIMISTIC. HE SEES TWO POSSIBILITIES FOR THE TERRITORY: INDEPENDENCE WITH FRENCH AID, PRESENCE AND GUARANTEES; OR A SOMALI TAKE OVER. HE RATES THE CHANCES OF THE FORMER ALTERNATIVE AS 1 OUT OF 7 OR 8.

10. DURING CONVERSATIONS, FRENCH OFFICIALS (AND ALI AREF) REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THEIR PERCEPTION THAT FRANCE (AND AREF) WERE DEFENDING THE WEST AGAINST SOVIET EXPANSION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND AT THE MOUTH OF THE RED SEA. EXCEPT FOR AREF (SEE BELOW) THERE WERE NO DIRECT REQUESTS FOR U.S. OR OTHER WESTERN ASSISTANCE IN SUCH A DEFENSE, BUT THE IMPRESSION WAS REPEATEDLY GIVEN THAT FRANCE WOULD WELCOME DISCUSSIONS AND SUPPORT IN HANDLING PROBLEMS POSED. AREF

REPEATED HIS PREVIOUS REQUEST TO EMBOFF (CF PARA 6, REF A)
FOR U.S. MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT. HE STATED THAT HE HAD CHOSEN
TO THROW HIS LOT "100 PERCENT" ON THE SIDE OF THE WEST.
IF HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD FALL, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE A
DEFEAT NOT ONLY FOR FRANCE, BUT FOR THE U.S. AND THE WEST. EMBOFFS
WERE NON-COMMITAL BUT PROMISED TO REPORT HIS COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON.

11. ECONOMICALLY, DJIBOUTI IS IN A TYPICAL PRE-INDEPENDENCE
SLUMP. THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS (MOSTLY GREEKS, ARABS, ETC.)
ARE EXPORTING THEIR SAVINGS, DRAWING DOWN THEIR INVENTORIES
OF CONSUMER GOODS, AND PREPARING TO LEAVE THE TERRITORY AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. GROCERY STORE AND HABERDASHERY SHELVES ARE
RAPIDLY EMPTYING AND BUILDING MATERIALS ARE SCARCE. VALUED
HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS ARE BEING SENT ABROAD "JUST IN CASE SOME-
THING SHOULD HAPPEN" AND THOSE WHO CAN, SEARCH FOR JOBS
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OUTSIDE OF THE TERRITORY, ESPECIALLY IN THE PERSIAN GULF
STATES. ELECTRICAL GOODS, WHICH ARE DESIRED BY THE STILL NUMEROUS
MILITARY PERSONNEL AND OCCASIONAL TOURISTS, ARE IN FULL SUPPLY. THE
MORALE AMONG FRENCH AND THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS, AND EVEN SOME
SOMALI RESIDENTS, IS POOR. HUMMEL

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